

i Leader

Wednesday 31st August 2011

Facts, pros and cons of touchy subject

HEART OF GOLD: Continuing from Page 1 — there are two sides to the latest announcement by Newmont Waihi Gold. **Waihi Leader** looks at both sides of the sometimes emotional arguments.

Facts both proposals:

- Newmont Waihi Gold Martha Exploration Project only needs a variation of its existing mining licence.
- It involves construction of an exploration decline under the north west wall with trial stopes to determine whether mining beneath the existing Martha pit is viable.
- It will take two to three years to complete
- It needs permission for additional blasting

Correnso Underground Proposal

- The mining will take place between 150m-350m below Waihi East residential area
- There will be a 5m main access

tunnel. Plus construction of a spiral decline/incline, exhaust tunnel, and exploration drill tunnel

- The mined areas will be backfilled to ensure no voids are left
- There will be dewatering at two separate levels
- Newmont Mine officials said there will not be an increase in employment numbers but there will be work for the present workforce until 2020
- Newmont owns 120 residential properties Waihi-wide.

What are the negatives about Correnso?

- About 50 residential homes in Waihi East will be subject to vibration from blasts
- Property values could fall
- Amenity Affect programme will continue to pay residents who are

affected by the mining operation.

- Residents in the Waihi East area worried about the mine operating under their houses, under a school and kindergarten

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What are the positives?

- Longer employment for 350 people already employed in the mining operation and an additional 350 employed in related businesses
- Better returns for Newmont Gold (in 2004 gold was US\$409, in 2011 it has reached \$1800 an ounce)
- Longer return to Waihi with Newmont spending \$190 million on goods, services, rates, taxes and royalties with just over 32 per cent going into the local community.

■ **Would you be happy living above a working mine? Text or email us with your views - 021 820942 or reporters@waihileader.co.nz**



STARTING: Drilling to measure the groundwater in Roycroft St is one of the first stages in the Newmont Gold Mine latest exploration process.